SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #34 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:
1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Land revenue known as Sist, was the principal source of income of the Vijayanagar State. It had an efficient system of land revenue administration. To meet the heavy burden of the State and solve the problem of obtaining men and money to withstand its enemies, the Vijayanagar emperors including Krishan Deva gave up the traditional rate of assessments at one-sixth of the produce and increased it to some extent. Krishna Deva's land revenue system was based on t**he "principle of differential taxation", that is, levied taxes according to the relative fertility or quality of the lands. For this he conducted the survey of land in his empire and then decided the taxes according the fertility of land.** Besides the land taxes, the ryots had to pay other kinds of taxes like grazing tax, marriage tax etc.
Statement 2 is correct: Besides land-tax, many professional and industrial taxes were also imposed. These were on **shopkeepers,** farm-servants, shepherds, **washermen, potters, shoemakers, barbers,** prostitutes, musicians, Manufacturers and craftsmen, etc. There was also tax on property. Other source of income of the State were the revenue from customs duties; tolls on roads, revenue from gardening and plantations; and taxes levied on dealers in goods of common consumption. Taxes were paid both in cash and kind.
Source: UPSC PRELIMS 2016
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20190/1/Unit-27.pdf
https://ykcollege.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ADMINSTRATION-OF-VIAJANAGAR-converted.pdf

Q.2) In the Bahamani Kingdom, the term 'Tarafdars' refers to which of the following?
a) Agricultural landholder
b) Provincial Governor
c) Head of water supply in districts
d) Head of prisons

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Bahmani kingdom was a Muslim state of the Deccan in southern India. It was founded by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (c.1347–58 CE). He divided the Bahmani kingdom into four divisions or provinces. His son Muhammad called these provinces Tarafs, each placed under a Tarafdar. Thus, **Tarafdar was the governor of provinces in Bahmani kingdom**.
Later Gawan divided the kingdom into eight tarafs or provinces, each governed by a Tarafdar.
Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/gess109.pdf
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf

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Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to the Bahamani Kingdom:
1. It was founded by Hoshang Shah.
2. They had regular confrontations with the Vijayanagar kingdom over the Marathwada region.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Bahmani Kingdom was a Muslim state of the Deccan in Southern India during the medieval era in Indian History. It was **founded by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah** (in 1347), also known as **Hasan Gangu**, revolting against the Delhi Sultanate of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. **Hoshang Shah** (1406–1435) was the first formally appointed **Sultan of the Malwa Sultanat**e of Central India.
Statement 2 is correct: There were constant conflicts between the Vijayanagar kingdom and the Bahmani Sultanate as their interests clashed in three separate and distinct areas:
1) **Over the control of the Raichur doab**
2) **The Krishna–Godavari basin**
3) **Over the Marathwada region**
Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MYLv9dLMp9tKbDutru3KlON7FmDLFOMf/view

Q.4) With respect to the socio-economic life during the Vijayanagar empire, consider the following statements:
1. The temples took active part in both internal and overseas trade.
2. Large number of women were employed in the royal palaces as dancers.
3. The kings of Vijayanagar empire were generally tolerant towards people from other religions.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The period of the Vijayanagar Empire is considered an age of prosperity in South India in the 14th century CE. The Vijayanagar Empire had a strict caste system, or a strict cultural hierarchy, with community representatives for each caste, from lowest to highest.
Statement 1 is correct: During Vijayanagar Empire, the temples were rich and also took **active part in both internal and overseas trade. For example,** Temples **purchased local goods to perform ritual services. They made loans to individuals and village assemblies for economic purposes**. The loans were made in exchange for lands, the proceeds of which went to the temples.
Statement 2 is correct: According to Portuguese traveler **Nuniz,** a **large number of women were employed in the royal palaces as dancers**, domestic servants, and palanquin bearers. Sahagaman, i.e., the practice of Sati was honoured.

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Statement 3 is correct: All the kings of Vijayanagar empire were **tolerant towards people from other religions**. Portuguese writer **Barbosa** referred to the religious freedom enjoyed by everyone. **Muslims were employed in the administration** and they were freely allowed to build mosques and worship.
Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf

Q.5) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to "The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" frequently seen in news?
a) It is a set of sanctions brought against Russia by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
b) It puts restrictions on Iran's Nuclear program.
c) It aims to curb harmful subsidies given to the unregulated fishing sector by a country.
d) It is an implementation plan to achieve climate goals adopted under the Paris climate change conference.

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Option a is incorrect: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization **(NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance** between 30 member states – **28 European countries** and **two North American countries (United States of America** and Canada). NATO had deployed troops along Eastern Europe and economic sanctions on Russia to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" is not related to these sanctions.
Option b is correct: Recently, the **US imposed sanctions against** a Mumbai based petrochemical company, **Tibalaji Petrochem Pvt Ltd**. as it was accused of selling Iranian petroleum products.
It is the **first Indian entity to face the US designation under unilateral sanctions passed in 2018-19,** after the US walked out of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** commonly known as the I**ran nuclear deal** is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in 2015, **between Iran and the P5 countries (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States) plus Germany together with the European Union.** The main motive of this agreement is **to prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons. However, i**n 2018 the **Trump administration unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of this agreement**. Recently, **The U.S. and Iran have also exchanged their stands indirectly** via the European Union for a "final draft" on re-joining the JCPOA.
Option c is incorrect: In 2022, the 12th Ministerial Conference of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland.** This conference **(and not JCPOA**) agreed to **setting limits on harmful fishing subsidies.** Also, the conference agreed to give a **temporary waiver on Covid-19 vaccines.**
Option d is incorrect: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (and not JCPOA) adopted at Conference of Parties (COP27) is an implementation plan to **achieve climate goals adopted under the Paris climate change conference.** It highlights that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least US$ 4-6 trillion a year
Source: https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/JCPOA-at-a-glance
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-the-key-takeaways-from-the-12th-ministerial-conference-of-the-world-trade-organization-7977696/
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/russia-ukraine-war-nato-troops-deployment-article-5-7798588/
https://blog.forumias.com/cop27-outcomes-and-concerns/#What_are_the_Key_Outcomes_of_COP27

www.forumias.org

Q.6) He was a Persian merchant. Under his guidance the Bahmani kingdom reached its peak. He waged successful wars against Vijayanagar, Orissa, and the sea pirates on the Arabian sea. He built a Madarsa at Bidar in Persian architectural style.
The above paragraph describes which among the following official of the Bahamani Kingdom?
a) Alauddin Hassan Gangu Bahaman Shah
b) Mohammad Gawan
c) Ahmad Shah I Wali
d) Firuz Shah

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Option b is correct: The Bahmani kingdom reached its peak under the guidance of Prime minister **Muhammad Gawan.** He was a Persian merchant. He was well-versed in Islamic theology, Persian Language, and Mathematics. He was also a poet and a prose writer. He was also a military genius. He waged s**uccessful wars against Vijayanagar**, Orissa, and the sea pirates on the Arabian sea. He **built a Madarsa at Bidar** in Persian architectural style.
Option a is incorrect: Alauddin Hassan Gangu Bahaman Shah:
1) Alauddin Hassan Gangu Bahaman Shah was the founder of the Bahamani sultanate in the year 1347 AD.
2) Rivalry with Vijayanagar kingdom over the fertile region of Raichur doab started from his period and continued till the last of Bahaman rule.
3) He had frequent conflicts with the Warangal state, the Reddy kingdoms of Rajahmundry and Kondavidu. Bahman Shah emerged victorious in all these expeditions and assumed the title of Second Alexander on his coins.
4) Mohammed, I succeeded Bahman Shah.

Option c is incorrect: Ahmad Shah I Wali (1422-1436)
1) He was called "Wali" (saint) because of his association with the famous Sufi saint Gesu Daraz (of the Chisty order).
2) He continued the struggle for domination of the eastern seaboard of southern India (Krishna Godavari delta region).
3) He annexed Warangal and killed the ruler as revenge, thus eastern coast came under their control.
4) He shifted the capital to Bidar and campaigned towards Malwa, Gondwana, and Konkan.

Option d is incorrect: Firuz shah Bahmani (1397-1422)
1) He was well-read in religious sciences and wanted to make the Deccan the cultural center of India.
2) When the Delhi sultanate declined, the learned people migrated to the Deccan making it the center of learning.
3) He inducted many Hindus into his administration.
4) Built an astronomical observatory at Daulatabad.
5) He founded Firozabad, a few kilometers south of Gulbarga.
6) Ports of Chaul and Dabhol attracted trading ships from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea trading in horses and luxury goods came in from the Arab world.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/gess109.pdf

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Antarctic Act, 2022:
1. The Act is applicable on a citizen of India as well a citizen of any other country.
2. According to the act, no permit is required to collect sample of mineral resources from Antarctic for the purposes of scientific research.
3. Commercial fishing in Antarctica is allowed only after obtaining permit from the appropriate authority.

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Which of the statement(s) given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Recently, Indian Antarctic Act, 2022 has been passed. Its key objectives include having India's **own national measures** for protecting Antarctic environment, ensuring **de-militarization** of the region, getting rid of **mining** or illegal activities, management of growing Antarctic **tourism** and sustainable development of **fisheries.**

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Antarctic Act, 2022 is applicable on **Indian citizens, citizens of foreign countries** and a **vessel or aircraft** registered in India or outside India. It is also applicable on a company, body corporate, corporation, partnership firm, joint venture, an association of persons or any other **entity incorporated, established or registered as such under any law in force in India.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: In general, drilling, dredging, excavating, collecting samples etc. of mineral resources is **not allowed.** However, **permission can be granted** for these activities for the purposes of **scientific research or construction, repair and maintenance of an Indian station or any other structure.** Hence, permit is required.

Statement 3 is correct. Any person who intends to go to Antarctica for the purpose of **commercial fishing shall apply for a permit** to the appropriate authority.

Other regulated and prohibited activities:

Regulated Activities- 'Permit' is required	**Absolute Prohibition**
1) Indian expedition to Antarctica 2) Indian station in Antarctica 3) Permit for vessel and aircraft entering Antarctica. 4) **Permit for mineral resource activities.** 5) Permit for introducing non-native animals and plants into Antarctica. 6) Permit for introducing microscopic organisms. 7) Permit for discharge into sea. 8) Permit for waste disposal. 9) Permit to enter protected areas. 10) **Special permit for commercial fishing in Antarctica** 11) Other specified activities	1) **Nuclear explosion** or disposal of **radioactive waste** material 2) Introducing **non-sterile soil** 3) Damage, destroy or remove any **historic site or monument** or any of its part 4) **Discharge of certain specified products** or substances. 5) Other specified activities

Knowledge Base:

Other important provisions of the Act:

1) **Background**: To give effect to the provisions of **Antarctic Treaty**, the **Protocol on Environment Protection (Madrid Protocol)** to the Antarctic Treaty and to the **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. India acceded to Antarctic Treaty system in 1983.**
2) Central Government shall establish a **Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection**. This committee shall be chaired by the **Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
3) This committee shall establish a **waste classification system and waste management plans**.

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Important Facts about Antarctica

1) It is the southernmost continent, fifth largest in area and contains the geographic South Pole.
2) It is mostly uninhabited, except approximately 40 permanent stations established by several countries. **Maitri and Bharti are India's research stations** on the continent.
3) Native species of animals include **mites, nematodes, penguins, seals and tardigrades** etc. Vegetation occurs, mostly, in the form of **lichens and moss**.

Source:
https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/acts_parliament/2022/The%20Indian%20Antarctic%20Act,%202022.pdf
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1847047

Q.8) Consider the following statements with reference to Vijayanagar Empire:

1. The kings claimed to rule on behalf of the God Virupaksha.
2. Rulers used the title of "Hindu Suratrana".
3. The royal orders were usually signed in Kannada script.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct Answer.

According to tradition and epigraphic evidence two brothers, Harihara and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336. This empire included within its fluctuating frontiers peoples who spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions

Statement 1 and 3 are correct: The Vijayanagara kings claimed to rule on behalf of the god Virupaksha. All royal orders were signed "Shri Virupaksha", usually in the Kannada script.

Statement 2 is correct: Rulers also indicated their close links with the gods by using the title "Hindu Suratrana". This was a Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MYLv9dLMp9tKbDutru3KlON7FmDLFOMf/view

Q.9) Consider the following terms of the Vijayanagara Kingdom:

Term	**Meaning**
1. Pettai	Commercial Centres
2. Adaippam	Accountant
3. Kariya-karta	Executive Agent

Which of the above-given pairs are correctly matched?
a) 2 and 3 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct Answer.

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The king was the ultimate authority in the Vijayanagara kingdom. He was also the supreme commander of the army. He was assisted by several high-ranking officers. The chief minister was known as the mahapradhani.

Pair 1 is correct: Chiefs controlled production within their Nayaktanam territories by creating **commercial centers (pettai)** and markets, encouraging the settlement of cultivators and artisans with tax concessions, creating and maintaining irrigation facilities, etc.

Pair 2 is incorrect and 3 is correct: The chief minister was known as the mahapradhani. **The Chief Minister led** a number of lower-ranking officers, like Dalavay (commander), Vassal (guard of the palace), Rayasam (secretary/ accountant), **Adaippam (personal attendant), and Kariya-Karta (executive agents).**

Knowledge Base: The Pradhan was either a royal member or a military officer not related to the royal family. The pradhan had his own revenue accountants and military to assist in his administration. Within each rajya, there were smaller administrative divisions like Nadu, sima, sthala, kampana, etc. The lowest unit was of course the village. The rajyas lost their administrative and revenue status under the Tuluva dynasty due to the development of the Nayak system under Krishadevaraya.

Source: TNSCERT: Medieval: Bahmani and vijayanagara kingdom

Q.10) With reference to Davos summit 2022 of World Economic Forum, consider the following statements:

1. A new initiative called 'Defining and Building the Metaverse' was launched in this summit.
2. India announced the Mission LiFE programme for the first time in this summit to fight climate change.
3. One health initiative was proposed by India in this summit to prevent another Covid-19 like pandemic in the future.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Davos summit 2022 was convened by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a **Swiss non-profit foundation** established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Statement 1 is correct: World Economic Forum in its 2022 summit at Davos announced a new initiative called Defining and Building the Metaverse. This initiative brings together key stakeholders to build an economically viable, interoperable, safe, and inclusive of metaverse. Different research suggests that the metaverse is expected to grow into an $800 billion market by 2024.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Indian launched a Mission LiFE at the **COP26 summit in Glasgow** in 2021. In the Davos summit Indian Prime Minister urged that **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) is useful for fighting climate challenges** and he also urged the world to launch a **people's movement with "3 Ps" – "Pro Planet People" to** bring behavioural change among people to fight climate change.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The World Health Organisation formed a One Health Initiative to integrate work on human, animal and environmental health across the Organization. The **Indian Prime Minister** highlighted **India's role as pharma producer** during Covid times and he **asserted that India followed a vision of One Earth, One Health** which saved crores of lives by giving essential medicines and vaccines to many countries. Thus, **one health Initiative was not proposed by India.**

Source: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/06/davos-2022-key-themes-global-cooperation-health-equity-digital-inclusion-economic-outlook/#:~:text=At%20Davos%202022%2C%20leaders%20from%20the

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https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/one-health#:~:text=WHO%20formed%20a%20One%20Health%20Initiative%20to%20integrate%20work%20on%20human%2C%20animal%20and%20environmental%20health%20across%20the%20Organization.
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/davos-summit-indias-growth-in-next-25-years-will-be-clean-green-sustainable-and-reliable-pm-modi/article38283493.ece#:~:text=%E2%80%98One%20Earth%2C%20One%20Health%E2%80%99%20is%20saving%20crores%20of%20lives%20by%20giving%20essential%20medicines%20and%20vaccines%20to%20many%20countries%2C%E2%80%9D
https://www.niti.gov.in/life

Q.11) In medieval India, the term "Fanam" referred to:
a) Clothing
b) Coins
c) Ornaments
d) Weapons

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Option b is correct: The Fanam coins were the regular unit of currency in medieval Travancore and appear to have been extensively used for trading in the region of South India. The words Fanam and Panam literally mean money and are still used as a synonym for wealth in Kerala in the native language of Malayalam.
Source: UPSC PRELIMS 2022
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67196/1/Block-3.pdf
https://blog.forumias.com/question/in-medieval-india-the-term-fanam-referred-to/
http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00glossarydata/terms/fanam/fanam.html

Q.12) Consider the following statement regarding the Nayaka (Nayakar) system of the Vijayanagar empire:
1. Foreign traveller Fernao Nuniz says that the Nayaks were compelled to keep certain number of military forces to serve the king.
2. The Nayakas used a part of revenue collected by them for the maintenance of irrigation works.
3. It was similar to the Iqta system practiced by the Delhi Sultanate.
4. Ultimately, the Nayaka system became one of the reasons for collapse of central imperial structure of Vijayanagar.
Which of the above statement are correct?
a) 1, 3 and 4 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct Answer.
Among those who exercised power in the Vijayanagar empire were military chiefs who usually controlled forts and had armed supporters. These chiefs often moved from one area to another, and in many cases were accompanied by peasants looking for fertile land on which to settle. These chiefs were known as **Nayakas.**
Statement 1 is correct: Nuniz says that the Vijayanagar kingdom at that time was divided between more than two hundred captains (his translation for Nayak) and they were compelled in turn to keep certain number of military forces (horses and foot soldiers) to serve the king in times of need: they were also

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required to pay certain amount of the revenue to the king in particular times of a year, like during the nine-day Maha Navami festival.

Statement 2 is correct: Some of the revenue collected by the Nyaka was also used for the maintenance of temples and irrigation works.

Statement 3 is correct: Nayaka or Nayakar system is similar to the iqta system practiced by the Delhi Sultanate at that time. But in the Vijayanagar kingdom, the regular assignment of revenue-yielding territory in return for military service is clearly found only from about 1500 or a little earlier.

Statement 4 is correct: The Nayakas sent tribute to the king annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty. Kings occasionally asserted their control over them by transferring them from one place to another. **However, during the course of the seventeenth century, many of these nayakas established independent kingdoms. This hastened the collapse of the central imperial structure.**

Source: TNSCERT: Medieval: Bahmani and Vijayanagar kingdom
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs203.pdf

Q.13) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Saint Kabir and Guru Nanak?
a) While Guru Nanak was opposed to idol worship, Kabir supported it.
b) Both Kabir and Guru Nanak preached in Hindi language.
c) While Kabir preached non-violence, Guru Nanak preached a militant form of struggle against social oppression.
d) The teachings of both of them are mentioned in holy book of Sikhs, the 'Guru Granth Sahib'.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Saint Kabir Das (1440-1518) was a very renowned saint, poet and social reformer of India who lived during the **15th century**. **Guru Nanak (1469-1539) was the founder and first Guru of Sikhism**, was born in the year 1469, in the village of Talwandi which is located in the Punjab.

Option a is incorrect: Both Kabir and Guru Nanak were against the practise of idol worship. Guru Nanak held that instead of putting our faith in the almighty who is **omnipresent** we are putting our faith in some statue. **Kabir worshipped the Nirguna (without form) God** whom he calls by several names such as Rama, Allah, Hari, Sain, Sahib, etc.

Option b is incorrect: The Bhakti movement promoted the growth of vernacular language and literature in different parts of the country. Kabir, Nanak and Chaitanya preached in their respective vernacular tongues – **Kabir in Hindi, Nanak in Gurmukh**i and Chaitanya in Bengali. So subsequent Bhakti literatures were compiled in these languages and many Muslim writers also translated Sanskrit works into regional languages.

Option c is incorrect: Both Kabir and Guru Nanak subscribed to the idea of nonviolence. However, Sikhism under its **sixth Guru Hargobind began its transformation from a peaceful community to warrior community.**

Option d is correct: The Guru Granth Sahib incorporates the teachings of both Kabir and Guru Nanak. It incorporates the writings of many Bhakti poets and Sufi saints such as **Ramananda, Namadeva, Kabir and Sheikh Farid.** While **Adi Granth is the teachings of Guru Nanak.**

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT - Cultural Syncretism: Bhakti Movement in India
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/84764/1/Unit-4.pdf
https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20200/1/Unit-29.pdf

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Q.14) With reference to the characteristics of Sufism, consider the following statements:
1. They failed to communicate with the local masses due to over emphasis on the Persian language.
2. Some Sufis adopted yogic practices as one of the means to establish a link with God.
3. Sufism was restricted solely in Northern India during the period of Delhi Sultanate.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The Sufis are Muslim saints who aim at establishing direct communion between God and man through personal experience of mystery which lies within Islam. They did it through **ascetic exercises, contemplation, renunciation and self-denial.** By the 12th century, Sufism had become an influential aspect of Islamic social life as it extended over almost the entire Muslim community.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Sufi saints **used local languages to spread their message** among masses in India. They translated many **Persian Sufi verses in the local language called Hindavi** and these are considered as the earliest examples of translations of this kind. So, they focused on local languages to connect with the masses and did not focus on Persian language.
Statement 2 is correct: Some Sufis accepted yoga breathing exercise as one of the means of their devotional path. For example, **Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya**, the greatest Sufi saint of the 14th century, in his khanqah, had many conversations with the **Nathpanthi yogi visitors and he adopted many yoga breathing exercises and** was called a Sidh (perfect) by the yogis.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Sufism reached parts of Deccan region during the period of Delhi sultanate. Shaikh Burhanuddin Gharib (1340 AD) who was one of those Sufis who were **forced by Sultan Muhammed Tughlaq to migrate to the Deccan**. He made **Daulatabad** centre of his activities and introduced the **Chishti order** there.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/73316/1/Unit-15.pdf

Q.15) With reference to the Bucharest Nine (B9), consider the following statements:
1. It is a group of nine countries that signed a collective defence treaty with Russia.
2. The group is formed to collectively oppose the eastward expansion of NATO.
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The **Bucharest Nine (B9) is a group of nine NATO countries** in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War. Member countries of Bucharest Nine are **Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.**
Statement 1 is incorrect: All members of the Bucharest Nine are **part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**. The B9 countries have been **critical of President Vladimir**

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Putin's aggression against Ukraine since 2014, when Russia annexed the **Crimean Peninsula**. **Hence B9 are not allies of Russia.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Recently, the **Bucharest Nine (B 9)** rejected the **Russian claim about the eastward "expansion" of North-Atlantic Treaty Alliance organisation (NATO).** They underlined that NATO is not an organisation that **"expanded" to the east"**, rather, these countries as the independent **European states** have decided on their own to go west i.e., to align with United States of America and NATO.

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/bucharest-nine-nato-countries-eastern-europe-explained-7836360/
https://indianexpress.com/article/world/three-seas-initiative-china-europe-6789107/

Q.16) Who among the following Bhakti saints were contemporaries of the Maratha King Shivaji?
1. Tukaram
2. Saint Ramdas
3. Chaitanya
4. Jana bai
5. Eknath

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 2 and 5 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Shivaji (1627–1680) was born in Shivneri near Junnar and a member of the **Bhonsle Maratha clan. Shivaji began his military career at the age of nineteen**. In **1646**, he captured the fortress of Torna from the Sultan of Bijapur.

Option 1 is correct: Tukaram was born in 1608 in a village near Poona, Maharashtra. He was a **contemporary of Maratha King Shivaji (1627-80)** and saint Ramdas. He wrote and **sung devotional songs in praise of his favourite deity Lord Vithoba of Pandharpur.** He **rejected Vedic sacrifices, ceremonies, pilgrimages, idol worship, etc.** He spread the message of equality and brotherhood. He tried to foster Hindu-Muslim Unity.

Option 2 is correct: Saint Ramdas (AD 1608 – c. 1681), also known as Samarth Ramdas was an Indian Hindu saint, philosopher, poet, writer and spiritual master. He was a devotee of the Hindu deities Rama and Hanuman. **Ramdas was regarded by Shivaji as his guru.**

Option 3 is incorrect: Chaitanya (1485–1533) is not a contemporary of Shivaji. Chaitanya was a devotee of Lord Krishna and he started a **revivalist movement which tried to show Krishna as superior to all gods**. He **popularised the practice of group devotional singing accompanied by ecstatic dancing.** His movement became **popular in Bengal and Orissa.**

Option 4 is incorrect. Jana Bai belonged to 13th – 14th century (thus not contemporary of Shivaji). She was a follower of Namdev and a shudra poetess of Ganga Kheda who composed more than 350 poems (abhangas).

Option 5 is incorrect. Eknath belonged to 1533- 1599 AD (thus not contemporary of Shivaji). Sant Eknath of Paithan on the other hand was known for his Chatuhshloki Bhagvat, Eknathi Bhagvat, Bhavarth Ramayan and Rakmini Svayamvar

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT - Cultural Syncretism: Bhakti Movement in India

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Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding India-UN Development Partnership Fund?
1. The 'Fund' is established by United Nations (UN) to support India's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The fund is also aimed to promote multilateralism and shared prosperity in the global South.
2. UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO are the implementing partners of the Fund.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The year 2022 marks the 5th anniversary of India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The fund was **established (in 2017)**, **supported and led** by the **Government of India** and implemented in collaboration with the UN Systems.

Its key objectives are:

1) Promote **multilateralism and shared prosperity** in global South. (**South-South Cooperation**)
2) The Fund **supports Southern-owned and -led, demand-driven and transformational sustainable development** projects across the developing world, with a focus on **least developed countries and Small Island developing States.**
3) Its thematic reach spans all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4) **The Government of India has committed USD150 million over 10 years to the India-UN Fund.**

Statement 2 is correct: One of the key objectives of the fund is to **promote multilateralism and shared prosperity in the global South.**

Statement 3 is correct: UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO are among the implementing partners of the Fund.

The fund has 12 UN entities as implementing partners:

Source: https://indiaunfund.unsouthsouth.org/

www.freeupsmaterials.org

Q.18) Which of the following was the main reason for Ahmad Shah Abdali's' invasion into India which resulted in the third battle of Panipat?
a) He wanted to establish a powerful Afghan kingdom in India.
b) He wanted to avenge the expulsion of his agent from Delhi by the Marathas.
c) The governor of Jullundhar Adina Beg Khan invited Abdali to invade Punjab.
d) He wanted to avenge the Mughal empire's attempt to capture Punjab which was earlier ceded to him by Mughals.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ahmad Shah Abdali also known as Ahmad Shah Durrani who was elected the **successor of Nadir Shah** after the latter's death in 1747, invaded India several times between 1748 and 1767.

Option a is incorrect: Nadir Shah had only one aim – loot and scoot. The Afghans under Ahmed Shah Abdali had a mixed approach. They desired to rule only the areas adjoining their homeland and east of Indus focussed on revenue collection and loot. Ahmad Shah Abdali repeatedly invaded India however **he did not establish a kingdom in India and even they could not retain the Punjab which they lost to the Sikhs chiefs**.

Option b is correct: In 1757, Abdali captured Delhi and he appointed the Rohila chief, **Najib-ud-Daula, as Mir Bakhshi of the empire,** who was to act as personal **supreme agent of Abdali.** In 1758, **Najib-ud-Daula was expelled from Delhi by the Maratha chief, Raghunath Rao,** who also captured Punjab. **In 1759, Ahmad Shah Abdali returned to India to take revenge on the Marathas** and the result was the third **Battle of Panipat in 1761**, in which Abdali defeated the Marathas.

Option c is incorrect: Adina Mirza Beg Khan was a Punjabi General and administrator who served as the last governor of Punjab of the Mughal Empire**. Threatened by Jahan Khan (he was the guardian of Abdalis 11-year-old son who was the governor of Lahore), Adina Beg invited the Marathas** to invade Punjab. A combined army of Marathas, Adina and the Sikhs first captured Sirhind in 1758, and then raced to capture Lahore, thus Afghans were chased beyond the Indus.

Option d is incorrect: Ahmad Shah Abdali continuously harassed the Mughals who tried to buy peace in **1751-52 by ceding Punjab to him**. However, Abdali wanted to avenge **Marathas** because they **under their chief, Raghunath Rao captured Punjab.**

Source: Old NCERT Class XII: Modern India Pg no 8
Spectrum: The brief history of India -pg no 60
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/shooting-straight/adina-beg-from-patwari-to-subedar-of-punjab/
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/shooting-straight/when-marathas-had-face-off-with-sikhs-in-punjab/?source=app&frmapp=yes
https://www.google.com/search?q=adina+beg+khan+invited+whom&sxsrf=ALiCzsYKoRkasNGE6OO-uMD4kbq3aWLV8A%3A1672138154510&ei=qs2qY9TXHvmUseMPvvOuiAQ&ved=0ahUKEwjU1NuF0Jn8AhV5SmwGHb65C0EQ4dUDCA8&uact=5&oq=adina+beg+khan+invited+whom&gs_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQAzIFCCEQoAEyBQghEKABOgoIABBHENYEELADOgYIABAWEB46BwghEKABEApKBAhBGABKBAhGGABQywJYzxlgrR9oAXAAeACAAf8BiAHfEpIBBjAuMTAuM5gBAKABAcgBCMABAQ&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#:~:text=Threatened%20by%20Jahan%20Khan%2C%20Adina%20Beg%20played%20a%20masterstroke.%20He%20invited%20the%20Marathas%2C%20who%20were%20already%20the%20kingmakers%20in%20Delhi%2C%20to%20invade%20Punjab.%20A%20combined%20army%20of%20Marathas%2C%20Adina%20and%20the%20Sikhs%20first%20captured%20Sirhind%20on%20March%2021%2C%201758%2C%20and%20then%20raced%20to%20capture%20Lahore%20on%20April%2019%2C%201758.

Q.19) With reference to the Nizam Ul Mulk, the founder of Hyderabad state during the later phase of Mughal empire, consider the following statements:

1. He never openly declared his independence from the Mughal empire.
2. He reorganised the state finances by transferring large amounts of jagir lands into Khalisa land.
3. He followed a policy of religious tolerance towards Hindus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In 1724 **Nizam ul Mulk established autonomous rule over the Deccan region and started what came to be known as the Asaf Jahi dynasty**. Subsequent rulers retained the title Nizam ul-Mulk and were referred to as Nizams of Hyderabad.

Statement 1 is correct: Nizam ul Mulk never openly declared his independence from the Mughal empire but in practice he acted like an independent ruler. He waged wars and concluded peace **without any reference to the empire in Delhi.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is **Murshi Quli khan, a ruler of Bengal** who transformed the **large amount of jagir land into Khalisa land** and introduced the system of revenue farming in Bengal. **Nizam ul Mulk continued to offer jagirs** and he tried to get rid of corruption from the revenue system.

Statement 3 is correct: He followed a policy of religious tolerance towards Hindus. For example, a Hindu Puran Chand was his Dewan. He tried to consolidate his power by establishing an orderly administration in his state.

Source: Old NCERT Class XII: Modern India Pg no 18-20

Q.20) With reference to various disputed island across the world, consider the following pairs:

Islands	**Disputed region between**
1. Kuril Island	Japan and Russia
2. Islas Malvinas	France and Argentina
3. Spratly Island	South Korea and Vietnam
4. Senkaku Island	China and North Korea

How many pair/s given above is/are correctly matched?

a) only one pair
b) only two pairs
c) only three pairs
d) All the four pairs

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Kuril Island is subject to dispute between Russia and Japan. While Russia claims this region as theirs which they mention as South Kuril Islands, Japan calls it their region and named it as

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Northern territories. **Currently the region is controlled by Russia** and Japan claims such region is illegally occupied by Russia.,

Pair 2 is incorrect: The claims over Islas Malvinas also known as Falkland Island have been laid by the United Kingdom and Argentina. It is located in the south Atlantic Ocean.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Spratly islands are a disputed island in the South China Sea. It lies off the coasts of the **Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam**. Presently most of the islands' region is controlled by **China** and other countries in the region including **Vietnam dispute China's claim over this region**. South Korea is not included in this dispute.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Senkaku islands is a region of dispute between China and Japan (not North Korea). The Senkaku Islands are a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, currently administered by Japan. However recently **China is trying to extend its influence over this region in conflict with Japan.**
Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/india-and-japan-should-devise-strategy-for-the-indo-pacific-says-mk-narayanan/article65392044.ece#:~:text=Senkaku%20Islands%20in%20the%20East%20China%20Sea
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-militarised-at-least-three-islands-in-the-disputed-south-china-sea-us-indo-pacific-commander/article65245262.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-says-it-drove-away-us-destroyer-that-sailed-near-disputed-isles/article65637029.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/argentina-to-revive-falklands-issue-in-india/article65348964.ece

Q.21) Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally:
a) agriculturists
b) warriors
c) weavers
d) Traders

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Option d is correct: The two major business communities in medieval India were the Banjaras (long-distance transporters) and Baniyas (village and town merchants). **Banjaras during medieval period trading groups that moved from one place to another in buying and selling goods.** The Banjaras combined pastoralism and the carrying trade. Their role in Indian agrarian commerce was extremely important. The basis for the trade and, indeed, for the existence of the Banjaras lay in conditions of inland transport. Goods were carried on boats and carts, and by camels and bullocks. They could travel with their herds over long distances. They had to move in large groups for safety, and were kept together by strong clan ties and subordination to headmen
Source: UPSC PRELIMS 2016
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/21743/1/Unit-25.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20252/1/Unit-24.pdf

Q.22) With reference to the Maratha administration in medieval India, the Sarkarkuns were:
a) type of revenue settlements
b) the revenue collectors
c) the head of the prant
d) the resident cultivators with hereditary rights of occupancy

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Option a is incorrect: Under Marathas, **the tankha is a type of revenue settlement**. It is a **permanent** standard assessment for each village.
Option b is incorrect: The revenue collectors were commonly designated as **kamavisdars or mamlatdars.**
Option c is correct: - The Maratha government divided their kingdom into three Prants and appointed an officer to head the prant known as sarkarkun, He was the officer of the level of the council of ministers of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

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Option d is incorrect: Under the Maratha empire, there were two types of tenants first one is a **Mirasdars** a resident cultivator with **hereditary rights of occupancy** and a second one is **Uparis**, a temporary cultivator.
Source: https://archive.mu.ac.in/myweb_test/M.A.%20-%20II%20-%20History%20-%20VIII.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20299/1/Unit-3.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20226/1/Unit-10.pdf

Q.23) Consider the following statements with reference to the socio-economic conditions during the 18th century Maratha reign:
1. Widow remarriage was quite common among non-brahmins of Maratha region.
2. The trade activity faced a setback owing to frequent wars.
3. The evil of dowry was relatively less pronounced in the region of Maharashtra compared to Rajput states and Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Option 1 is correct: During this period of 18th century, the Widows belonging to higher castes were not allowed to remarry, though in some regions and in some castes it was common. For example, among th**e non-brahmins of Maharashtra region (Maratha region), Jats and people of hill region of North, widow remarriage was quite common.**
Option 2 is correct: The trade activity during this period faced a setback owing the frequent **wars and struggle** between the different rulers. For instance, **Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali invasion, Third Battle of Panipat** all disrupted the trade activities both within and outside the country.
Option 3 is correct: The evil of dowry was more pronounced in the region of Rajput states and Bengal. However, in the **region of Maharashtra it was curbed to the extent by the efforts of Peshwas of Marathas.**
Source: Old NCERT Class XII - Indian states and societies in the 18th century

Q.24) Several foreign travellers from Persia and Europe visited the city of Vijayanagar in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In this context, arrange the following foreign travellers in chronological order of their visit to the Kingdom?
1. Domingo Paes.
2. Duarte Barbosa.
3. Fernao Nunez.
4. Abdur Razzaq.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 - 4 - 3 - 2
b) 4 - 2 - 1 - 3
c) 2 - 3 - 4 - 1
d) 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

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The correct Chronological order is Abdur Razzaq -- Duarte Barbosa -- Domingo Paes -- Fernao Nunez.
Several foreign travellers from Persia and Europe visited the city of Vijayanagar in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. They were impressed with the city and gave their accounts on administration, layout, bazaars, temples, and palaces. Some of the travellers who travelled to Vijayanagar are as follows:
4) Abdur Razzaq visited the city in **1443**. He was an ambassador of Shah Rukh, the Timurid dynasty ruler of **Persia.**
2) Duarte Barbosa made an account of Vijayanagar during the period **1504 A.D to 1514 A.D.**
1) Domingo Paes was a contemporary of **Krishnadevaraya (1509-29). His account is dated around 1520-22 A.D**. According to Paes, Vijayanagar was as large as Rome and the best-provided city of the world.
3) Fernao Nunez was a contemporary of **Achyutadevaraya's period (1529-42**). **His account is dated around 1535-37 A.D**. He explains the rise of Vijayanagar and its foundation, reference to Muhammad bin Tughlaq, and the establishment of the city of Vijayanagar.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/44425/1/Unit-20.pdf

Q.25) With reference to the Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA), consider the following statements:
1. It is an initiative started by 'Invest India' agency to promote foreign direct investment into the country.
2. Development Finance Corporation of the United States of America is closely associated with this agreement.
3. The agreement may provide financial support required for renewable energy in India.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Recently, the Investment Incentive Agreement was signed between the Government of the **United States of America** and the Government of **India.**
Statement 1 is incorrect: Investment initiative Agreement is an initiative of the United States of America and Government of India to secure adequate investment support for India. Thus, it is not an initiative of **Invest India** which is a **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency** working in the area of investment.
Statement 2 is correct: This Agreement is the **legal requirement for Developmental Finance Corporation (DFC) of USA to continue providing investment support in India.** DFC or their predecessor agencies have been active in India **since 1974** and have so far provided investment support worth $5.8 billion. Hence this **agreement and DFC have close association.**
Statement 3 is correct: Under the DFC programs, the US provides **fiscal support to emerging economies for healthcare, renewable energy, clean energy,** thus it **can increase** the financial support required for renewable energy in India**.** Also, it provides fiscal support to infrastructure, and technology in lower-income and middle-income countries.
Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1827650
https://www.outlookindia.com/business/how-the-new-investment-incentive-agreement-with-the-usa-will-aid-india-news-198355
http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Invest_India#:~:text=Operationalized%20in%20early,investment%20promotion%20and

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Q.26) Which of the following are the possible reasons for the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom?
1. Lack of definite law of succession.
2. Clash of interests between Indian and foreign Muslim nobles in Bahmani Kingdom.
3. Policy of war and enmity towards their neighboring states.
4. Mahmud Gawan's execution proved to be disastrous for Kingdom
5. Defeat of Bahmani sultanate in the battle of Talikota.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 2, 3 and 4 only
b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The Bahmani Kingdom made its appearance on the political horizon of Deccan due to the revolts towards the end of the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The reasons that led to the disintegration of Bahmani kingdom are as follows:
Statement 1 is correct: In Bahmani Kingdom, there was a lack of definite law of succession. After the death of a ruler, there were several claimants to the throne**.** There were tussles for rulership. This proved to be one of the reasons for the disintegration of the kingdom.
Statement 2 is correct: The Bahamni Kingdom was founded by Muslim Amirs who had come from Persia and Turkey and settled in India. The **original inhabitants of the Deccan who had embraced Islam wanted an equal share in administration**. **Thus, there was a clash of interest between Indian Muslims and foreign Muslims, which eventually led to the disintegration of empire.**
Statement 3 is correct: The Bahamni Sultans had a defective foreign policy. **They followed a policy of war and enmity towards all their neighboring state**s like Malwa, Khandesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Vijayanagar, etc., which proved to be one of the causes for the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom.
Statement 4 is correct: Mahmud Gawan was the Prime minister under the rule of the Bahmani sultanate. Under the sultanate there were two types of noblemen, The Deccanis (people of the local origin) and the Afaqis (people of foreign origin). There were conflicts and arguments between the two groups all the time. Mahmud was an Afaqi, hence he had to face many challenges. In a web of plots that were made to dishonor him by the Deccanis , the nobles forged important documents from him. When the incident was reported to the sultan, he ordered him to be executed in April 1481 under the influence of alcohol. **Mahmud Gawan's execution** proved to be disastrous for the Sultanate. Several of the **foreign nobles** who were considered the strongest pillars of the state **began to leave for their provinces, which degraded the administration processes and became one of the reasons for disintegration of the Sultanate**.
Statement 5 is incorrect: Bahmani kingdom was already disintegrated at the time of the battle of talikota. The battle was fought between the successor states of the Bahmani kingdom (Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Bidar, and Golconda) on one side and the Vijayanagar kingdom on the other side. Vijayanagar was badly defeated in the battle of Talikota or Rakshashi-Tangadi in 1565.
Source: TN SCERT-CH 12- Bahmani and Vijayanagar kingdom;

Q.27) Sarrafs were among the important personality in the history of medieval India. In this context, which option best describes the term, Sarrafs?
a) They were the horse merchants in Vijayanagar Empire.
b) The maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of the Sarrafs.
c) They were the peasants, who owned large areas of agricultural land.
d) They performed three distinct functions as money changers, bankers, and as traders.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Sarrafs are the personnel who played a significant role in the trade and economy of the state. **They performed three distinct functions: (1) as money-changers; (2) as bankers, and (3) as traders of gold, silver, and jewellery**. As money changers, they were considered as experts in judging the metallic purity of coins as well as their weight. They also determined their current exchange rate. They act as bankers to make remittances of money and issue letters of exchange. They would receive deposits and give loans on interest. They used to issue bills of exchange or hundis.

Options a is incorrect: Local communities of horse merchants were known as kudirai chettis (not the Sarrafs) in Vijayanagar empire.

Option b and c are incorrect: The maintenance of law and order and providing peace and security were important for a better business environment. This was the **responsibility of the kotwal** and his staff in the towns**. Sarrafs were not peasants.**

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20252/1/Unit-24.pdf

Q.28) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Vakataka rulers?

1. Many of the caves of Ajanta were built by individual donations from wealthy patrons connected to the Vakataka kings.
2. Copper plate land grants were issued at a large scale by the Vakataka rulers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Maharashtra plateau soon came to be dominated by the Vakatakas. They began as minor kings from the middle of the 3rd century CE, but rapidly gained power and extended their sway over most of Maharashtra and adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 1 is correct: The first caves at Ajanta were made between the 2nd century BCE and 1st century CE. The Early caves at Ajanta were made through donations made by upasakas, monks, traders, and ordinary people. **The second phase is dated to the 5th century CE. The caves were made through individual donations from wealthy patrons connected to the Vakataka kings. There are twenty-five caves made in this period.**

Statement 2 is correct: The practice of granting lands to Brahmanas started in India, it became common during the Gupta/Vakataka period. Their charities were inscribed on copper plates or stones. **Many Copper plate land grants were issued by the Vakataka rulers during their rule.**

Source: https://indianculture.gov.in/ajanta/caves
https://iicdelhi.in/sites/default/files/2020-12/OP_4_Final.pdf
https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp_content/S000829IC/P001689/M022048/ET/1504072744P08-M38-CopperPlateCharters-ET.pdf

Q.29) Consider the following statements with reference to the Vakataka kingdom:

1. Vakataka rulers claimed to be of Brahmana origin.
2. The Vakatakas succeeded Mauryas in the Maharashtra plateau region.
3. They had close political ties and matrimonial relations with the Guptas.

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4.Pravarasena-I was the most famous Vakataka ruler, who alone had the title of Samrat among Vakatakas.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 2, 3, and 4 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only
d) 1, 2, and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Vakatakas were a major ruling family of the period from the mid-3rd century to the 5th century CE.

Statement 1 is correct: The Ajanta cave inscription of Harisena claims Brahmana origins for the Vakatakas and the founder Vindhyasakti is called a dvija. The Vakatakas, who, according to K.M. Shrimali had a 'tribal' origin, also seem to be Bhargavangirasa Brahmanas of the Visnuvriddha gotra.

Statement 2 is incorrect: After the decline of Satavahanas, the political control of Deccan under one dynasty came to an end. Several kingdoms arose in different regions as successors of the Satavahanas. The **Maharashtra plateau soon came to be dominated by the Vakatakas**. They began as minor kings from the last quarter of the 3rd century CE, but rapidly gained power and extended their sway over most of Maharashtra and adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 3 is correct: The Vakatakas were a major ruling family of the period from the fourth to the sixth centuries AD, who were directly influenced by the changing political configuration in north India under the Guptas. **They not only had close political ties and matrimonial relations with the Guptas but also for the first time introduced Gupta political structures in peninsular India.**

Statement 4 is correct: There were two lines of Vakataka kings ruling in different areas. The main line ruled from eastern Maharashtra (the Vidarbha region), while a collateral branch called the Basin branch of Vakatakas ruled in southern Maharashtra**. The most famous Vakataka king was Pravarasena-I of the main line, who alone had the title of Samrat among the Vakatakas**. He performed several Vedic sacrifices and issued many land grants to brahmanas.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67715/1/Unit-9.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/21973/1/Unit-4.pdf

Q.30) With reference to the recently signed Australia-India water security initiative (AIWASI), consider the following statements:
1. It is a part of Australia's South Asia Water Security Initiative (SAWASI).
2. It aims to create at least 100 water secure cities by 2030.
3. It proposes to implement stormwater treatment and reuse systems to improve water security.
4. It also aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1, 2 and 4 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Recently, India and Australia signed an initiative called **Australia India water Security initiative (AIWASI).**

Statement 1 is correct: Australia India water Security initiative (AIWASI) is a part of **South Asia Water Security Initiative (SAWASI)** of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), **Australia**. It aims at strengthening South Asian city-level water governance by (a) **supporting governments** to provide **urban water** services and (b) **improving water security** for disadvantaged communities in India and Pakistan.
Statement 2 is incorrect: There is a component of the project known as **AIWASI CDP (Community level Demonstration Project)**. Its goal is to improve **water security for** two disadvantaged communities in India by implementing pilot **Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) solutions** through participatory engagement and joint accountability mechanisms. There is **not any defined goal of achieving at least 100 water secure cities under this initiative.**
Statement 3 is correct: Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) solutions proposes to **improve water security by stormwater treatment and reuse systems**, decentralised nature-based sewage, community-based rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge systems, and innovative circular solutions at WASH stations etc.
Statement 4 is incorrect: Providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India is **an aim of the Jal Jeevan mission (not an aim of AIWASI).** Jal Jeevan mission aims to provide **safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections by 2024 to **all households in rural India.** On the other hand, the scope of the AIWASI initiative largely restricts to Cities.
Source: https://aiwasi-cdp.wricitiesindia.org/sawasi-aiwasi/
https://aiwasi-cdp.wricitiesindia.org/about/#wsc:~:text=AIWASI%20CDP%20aims%20at%20design%20and%20implementation%20of%20WSUD%20solutions%20such%20as%20decentralized%20nature%2Dbased%20sewage%2C%20stormwater%20treatment%20and%20reuse%20systems%2C%20community%2Dbased%20rainwater%20harvesting%2C%20groundwater

Q.31) Consider the following Bhakti Saints:
1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 2 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The Lodhi dynasty fell in 1526 when Ibrahim Lodhi was defeated by Babur at Battle. of Panipat.
Option 1 is incorrect: Dadu Dayal was a religious reformer from Gujarat, born in 1544.
Option 2 is correct: Guru Nanak (1469-1539) was preaching when Battle of Panipat took place i.e., when Babur took over by defeating Lodhi dynasty in first battle of Panipat.
Option 3 is incorrect: Tyagaraja, a renowned composer of Carnatic Music was born in 1767.
Source: UPSC PRELIMS 2013

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the Maratha Confederacy:
1. It was started by Peshwa Madhavrao I.
2. The regions under confederacy was to be ruled in the name of Peshwa.

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3. The death of Madhavrao I in 1772 weakened the control of the Peshwas over the confederacy.
Which of the statements given above are **incorrect**?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Bajirao I (1720-40) had started a confederacy of prominent Maratha chiefs to manage the rapidly expanding Maratha power, and to some extent appease the kshatriya section of the Marathas as Peshwas were brahmins.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the arrangement of the Maratha confederacy, each prominent family under the chief was assigned a sphere of influence which he was supposed to conquer and rule**. It was to be ruled in the name of the Maratha king and not in the name of Peshwa.** The Maratha families which emerged prominent were (i) the Gaekwad of Baroda, (ii) the Bhonsle of Nagpur, (iii) the Holkars of Indore, (iv) the Sindhias of Gwalior, and (v) the Peshwa of Poona.
Statement 3 is correct: The confederacy, under Bajirao I to Madhavrao I worked cordially but the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) changed everything**. The defeat at Panipat and later the death of the young Peshwa, Madhavrao I, in 1772, weakened the control of the Peshwas over the confederacy**. Thus, in the second half of the 18th century C.E., the control of Peshwa was weakened over the confederacy.
Source: Pg 101, ch 5, Spectrum.

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the Treaty of Salbai:
1. This treaty was the outcome of Second Anglo-Maratha war.
2. Under this Treaty, the region of Salsette was to be given to Marathas.
3. It provided maintenance allowance to Raghunath Rao, which was to be paid by Peshwa.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Treaty of Salbai was signed in May 1782 which ended the First Anglo-Maratha war (not the second Anglo-Maratha war). Mahadji Sindhia was to be the mutual guarantor for the proper observance of the terms of the treaty. The treaty guaranteed peace between the two sides for twenty years.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Under Treaty of Salbai, the region of **Salsette was to continue in the possession of the English.** The territory conquered since the Treaty of Purandhar (1776) including Bassein was to be restored to the Marathas. The English should enjoy the privileges at trade as before. The Peshwa and the English should undertake that their several allies should remain at peace with one another.
Statement 3 is correct: The main provisions of the Treaty of Salbai are as follows:
(1) The English retained the areas of Salsette and Bharuch,
(2)Raghunath Rao was pensioned off and the pension/maintenance allowance to him was to be provided by Peshwa.
(3) Madhavrao was acknowledged as rightful Peshwa by British. etc.
Source: Pg 102, CH 5, Spectrum
https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Purandhar

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Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the military setup of the Maratha Empire:
1. There was absence of Navy in Maratha military administration.
2. Sarnobat was the chief of infantry in Maratha army.
3. During the rule of Shivaji Maharaj, the soldiers were paid in cash.
4. Muslim soldiers were not recruited in the Maratha army.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2, and 3 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statements 1 is incorrect: After the conquest of Konkan Shivaji built a strong navy. His fleet was equipped with ghurabs (gunboats) and gallivats (row boats with 2 masts and 40-50 oars). His fleet was mainly manned by the Koli tribe of Malabar coast. Robert Orme mentions 57 fleets of Shivaji under the command of Admiral Dariya Sarang and Mai Naik Bhandari. Daulat Khan was another admiral of Shivaji's navy. So, the Navy was not absent in Maratha Military.
Statement 2 is correct: There were two main divisions of the army of Shivaji Maharaj: infantry and cavalry. In the infantry there were officers such as the Havildar, Jumledar, etc. **The chief of the infantry was called Sarnobat.** He was the highest officer in the infantry.
Statement 3 is correct: During the rule of Shivaji Maharaj, the soldiers were paid in cash. The transformation of the small guerrilla bands into a professional standing army of the Maratha state required more cash at the disposal of the treasury to feed and supply the huge army.
Statement 4 is incorrect: **Muslim soldiers were recruited in the Maratha army**. The hill-forts in the Deccan states were controlled by the Marathas though the forts of more importance were manned by Muslim qiladars. Many Muslim generals served the Maratha kingdom.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20226/1/Unit-10.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22025/1/Unit-12.pdf

Q.35) With reference to Partners in Blue Pacific (PBP), consider the following statements:
1. It has been launched by the Group of Seven (G7) countries to enhance cooperation with small island nations of pacific region.
2. India is a member of this initiative.
3. It aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of climate crisis, connectivity and transportation.
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Partnership in Blue Pacific is a five-nation **informal mechanism to support Pacific islands** and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region. It aims to elevate Pacific regionalism and forge stronger ties with the Pacific Islands countries.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Partners in Blue Pacific (PBP) was launched by the **USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom** to counter China's influence in the pacific region. Amid China's aggressive

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push to increase its Pacific sphere of influence, the US and its allies have launched this initiative for **securing effective and efficient cooperation with the region's small island nations.**

On the other hand, **G7 announced "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)" to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative** by promising to raise $600 billion to fund development projects in low and middle-income countries.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India is not a member of this initiative. Before launching the PBP, the US and its partners started the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** a **trade-boosting play** in the region with **13 nations- i.e.,** Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Fiji and Vietnam. So, India is a part of IPEF but not of the PBP.

Statement 3 is correct: This initiative aims to **enhance cooperation between countries in the area of climate crisis, connectivity and transportation,** maritime security and protection, health, prosperity, and education.

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-us-partners-in-the-blue-pacific-initiative-counter-china-7994547/

Q.36) Which of the following are the reasons for the defeat of Marathas in the third battle of Panipat?

1. The Marathas could not find allies in the northern India.
2. The Marathas used Guerilla method of warfare in the plains of Panipat, which proved to be disastrous.
3. Marathas fought a defensive war as they were depended too much on the artillery.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Marathas could not find allies among the northern powers, as they had already alienated from the Nawab of Oudh, the Sikh and Jat chiefs, and gained the distrust of the Rajputs. Whereas, Abdali formed alliance with Najib-ud-Daulah of Rohilkhand and Shuja-ud-Daulah of Oudh.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Marathas did not use their guerrilla method of warfare. The Terrain of the Panipat was very much different from the Hills and forts of Maharashtra, therefore they could not use their Guerrilla technique and used the conventional war method which proved to be fatal for them.

Statement 3 is correct: Marathas depended too much on the artillery under Ibrahim Gardi and therefore, fought a defensive battle due to less mobility of heavy artillery system. Abdali had better cavalry than the Marathas and he got benefitted by fast mobility of cavalry.

Source: Pg 70, CH 15, volume II, TN SCERT

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the Taxation system under the Maratha empire:

1. 'Patdam' was a tax imposed on industrial units during the reign of Peshwas.
2. Chauth was imposed on neighbouring states to protect their territory from being invaded by Marathas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: 'Patdam' was a **tax imposed on the remarriages of widows (not the tax on industrial units)** during the reign of Peshwas in Maratha empire.

Statement 2 is correct: The Marathas claimed Chauth (i.e., 1/4th of the total revenue) from the neighboring chieftains whose territories did not form part of their homeland/swarajya. **Chauth** was a kind of tax that the neighbouring kingdoms have to pay to protect their territory from being invaded and conquered by Marathas.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22025/1/Unit-12.pdf

Pg 67, TN SCERT

https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-peshwas-tax-holiday-how-the-mughals-and-marathas-dealt-with-distress-migration/article31875853.ece

https://archive.mu.ac.in/myweb_test/M.A.%20-%20II%20-%20History%20-%20VIII.pdf

Q.38) With reference to the relation between Maratha and Mughal Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Twenty-Seven Years War was a set of wars fought between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha Empire.
2. The Mughals under Jaisingh defeated Marathas in the Battle of Purandar.
3. The Ahadnama between Mughals and Maratha gave Marathas the right to collect taxes from northwest provinces.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mughal-Maratha relations can be divided into four phases: (i) 1615-1664; (ii) 1664-1667; (iii) 1667-1 680 and (iv) 1680- 1707.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Mughal–Maratha Wars,** sometimes referred to as a whole as the **Deccan War, the Maratha War of Independence,** or the **Twenty-Seven Years' War** were a set of wars fought between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha Empire from **1680 to 1707**. This war was begun in 1680 by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's invasion of the Maratha enclave in Bijapur, which was established by the Maratha leader Shivaji. After the death of Aurangzeb, Marathas defeated the Mughals in Delhi and Bhopal, and extended their empire up to Peshawar by 1758.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Battle of Purandar** was fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire in **1665.** The Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb, sent his generals **Dilir Khan and Jai Singh t**o besiege Shivaji's fortress at Purandar. **They succeeded in defeating Shivaji at Purandar (1665)**. Jai Singh proposed for the Mughal-Maratha alliance. By the resultant treaty of Purandar (1665), Shivaji surrendered 23 out of 35 forts, worth annual income of 4 lakhs in the Nizam Shahi territory and 12 others to forts including Rajgarh each yielding 1 lakh Hunns annually.

Statement 3 is correct. The **treaty of protection** was signed between Mughal king (through Safar Jung) and Marathas at Kannauj and is popularly known as **Ahadnama,** which gave Marathas the right to collect taxes from northwest provinces like Multan and Sindh and gave them the Subhedari of provinces like Agra and Ajmer.

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Source: https://dbpedia.org/page/Mughal%E2%80%93Maratha_Wars
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20226/1/Unit-10.pdf
https://www.esamskriti.com/e/History/Indian-History/How-Marathas-contributed-to-the-Decline-of-the-Mughal-Empire~period-1707-to-1753--1.aspx

Q.39) With reference to the administrative System of Shivaji, consider the following statements:
1. He used 'Kathi' system of land measurement for revenue assessment in his kingdom.
2. The offices of Ashta Pradhan appointed by Shivaji were made non-hereditary in nature.
3. He replaced the Jagirdari System with the Ryotwari System in his empire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Shivaji Bhonsle, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was an Indian warrior king and a member of the Bhonsle Maratha clan. His valor and great administrative skills, Shivaji carved out an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur that eventually became the genesis of the Maratha Empire.

Statement 1 is correct: Shivaji's revenue system was based on the Kathi system of Malik Amber (regent of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmednagar from 1607 to 1626). According to this system, every piece of land was measured by Kathi (Rod or measuring stick) for the assessment of revenue. The length of this kathi was five cubits and five closed fists. The Kathi was later called Shivkathi after Shivaji.

Statement 2 is correct. The Shivaji administration was divided into eight departments headed by ministers who are called **'Ashta pradhan'.** The eight ministers were- Peshwa, Sari-Naubat, Majumdar, Waqai navis, Surnavis or Chitnis, Dabir, Nyayadhish, Pandit Rao. Under Shivaji these offices were **neither hereditary nor permanent.** They held the office at the pleasure of the king. They were also frequently transferred.

Statement 3 is correct. Shivaji's success lay in his ability to mobilize the peasants in his area. He **abolished the Jagirdari system and replaced it with a land revenue system similar to the Ryotwari system** and established direct contact with the peasants thus freeing them from exploitation. (Jagirdari system is a form of land tenancy developed in India during the early 13th century in which the collection of the revenues of an estate and the power of governing it were bestowed on an official of the state whereas in Ryotwari System the peasants or cultivators were regarded as the owners of the land).

Knowledge Base:

The Ashtapradhan was not a creation of Shivaji. Many of these officers like Peshwa,Majumdar, Waqai navis, Dabir and Surnavis had existed under the Deccani rulers also. All the members of the Astha pradhan except Pandit Rao and Nyaydhish were asked to lead military campaigns.

The functions of the Ashtapradhan were-
1) Peshwa-looked after the finances and general administration.
2) Sari-Naubat- was the Senapati.
3) Majumdar-looked after the accounts.
4) Waqai-navis-looked after the intelligence, post and household affairs.
5) Surnavis or Chitnis-looked after official correspondence
6) Dabir-looked after foreign affairs
7) Nyayadhish-looked after justice.
8) Pandit Rao-looked after ecclesiastical affairs.

Source:
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson12.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20248/1/Unit-18.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20226/1/Unit-10.pdf

Q.40) With reference to the Group of Twenty (G20) organisation, consider the following statements:
1. The theme of upcoming G20 summit "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" has been taken from Maha Upanishad.
2. 'Sherpas' are governors of the central bank representing particular countries in the G20 summit.
3. G20 in association with World Bank has launched Stolen asset recovery (StAR) initiative to put an end to safe havens for corrupt funds.
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises **19 countries** (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and **the European Union.**
The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.
Statement 1 is correct: The theme of India's G20 Presidency - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth· One Family · One Future - is drawn from the **Maha Upanishad**. Essentially, the theme affirms the **value of all life** – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The G20 consists of two parallel tracks: the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track. The Sherpa side is coordinated by the **Sherpas who are personal emissaries of the Leaders**. **Finance Track is led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors** of the member countries.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Stolen asset recovery (StAR) was launched by the **World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (not by G20)** to facilitate the return of stolen assets and put an end to safe havens for corrupt funds. **G20 also works in the area of anti-corruption and Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG)** established in 2010 and it reports to G20 Leaders on anti-corruption.
Source: https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20/#how-g20-works
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/StAR.html
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1882356
file:///C:/Users/Admin/Downloads/20_ACO-01_02_2017_EN_web.pdf

Q.41) Who of the following founded a new city on the south bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong?
a) Amoghavarsha I
b) Ballala II
c) Harihara I
d) Prataparudra II

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Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Harihara-I was the founder the Vijaynagara city and the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336. According to tradition and epigraphic evidence two brothers, Harihara (Harihara-I) and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagar Empire in 1336 in fertile area of Tungabhadra (A tributary of Krishna River) Doab.

Source: UPSC PRELIMS 2015

Q.42) Which of the following factors are responsible for the rise of Marathas in the 16th and 17th centuries?

1. Inspirational influence of religious and social leaders
2. Stable political condition of the South India
3. Geographical Location of the kingdom and its physical features
4. Easily defensible rock forts

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The rise of the Marathas in the seventeenth century is an important and fascinating event in the history of India. There were several factors that led to the rise of the Maratha Kingdom.

Statement 1 is correct. Several prominent leaders in the religious and social fields of Maharashtra like Tuka Ram, Ram Das, Vaman Pandit and Eknath, inspired the people to unite by preaching faith and Bhakti in one God and by condemning the caste system which had divided the society. Hence the i**nspirational influence of religious and social leader**s became a reason for the rise of the Maratha empire.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Muslim kingdoms in the South were in the process of disintegration. The political situation was quite favourable for the rise of the Marathas. Hence the **Unstable political condition of the South** gave the Maratha rulers the opportunity to rise.

Statement 3 is correct. The location of Maharashtra and its physical features helped in the rise of Maratha power. The large part of Maratha land is a plateau where the Marathas had to struggle hard for their existence. This made the Marathas courageous and hard working. Hence the geographical **conditions** favoured the rise of the Maratha empire.

Statement 4 is correct. The broken ranges of the hills provided natural forts and the people were inspired to regard these forts as their mother-the seats of their protection. Hence the **ready-made and easily defensible rock forts** became an edge for the Maratha empire to lead on.

Source: https://niu.edu.in/sla/online-classes/MAH-204B_Rise-of-Marathas.pdf

Q.43) Arrange the following historical battles in correct chronological order:

1. Battle of Sangamner
2. Battle of Sinhagad (Sinhgad)
3. Battle of Kalyan
4. Battle of Pratapgad

Select the correct option using the codes given below.

a) 1-4-2-3
b) 4-2-3-1
c) 1-2-3-4

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d) 4-2-1-3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The correct chronological order in which battles were fought in- **Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Sinhagad, Battle of Sangamner and Battle of Kalyan, i.e., 4-2-1-3.**

Option 4: The Battle of Pratapgad was fought on **November 10, 1659,** at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati **Shivaji Maharaj and the Adil-Shahi general Afzal Khan**. The battle turned out major defeat for Afzal khan and was Maratha's first major victory against the Mughals that led to the final establishment of the Maratha Empire.

Option 2: The **Battle of Sinhagad** was fought on **4 February, 1670** on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra, between **Tanaji Malusare,** a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and **Udaybhan Rathod,** fort keeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief. In this battle Tanaji Malusare died and Shivaji Maharaj renamed the fort of Kondhana as Sinhagad **Fort (Lion's Fort) in his remembrance.**

Option 1: The **Battle of Sangamner** was fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire in **1679**. This was the **last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.**

Option 3: The **Battle of Kalyan** was fought **between 1682 and 1683 i**n which **Bahadur Khan** of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan, on the northeast of Bombay.

Source: https://chattrapatishivajimemorial.maharashtra.gov.in/1111/History
https://www.lsraheja.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Virtual-Exhibition-on-the-Occassion-of-Shiv-Jayanti.pdf
https://www.news9live.com/knowledge/major-battles-fought-by-chhatrapati-shivaji-maharaj-check-complete-list-174627

Q.44) Which of the following is/are the literary works of *Krishnadevaraya*?

1. Rasamanjari
2. Mitakshara
3. Amuktamalyada

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

One of the most important rulers of the Vijayanagar states was Krishnadevaraya, who belonged to the **Tuluva dynasty.** He was given titles of Kannada Rajya Rama Ramana ,Moorurayaraganda and Andhra Bhoja. His reign is described often as the **Golden Age of Telugu Literature,** equal patronage was also given to Kannada, Tamil, and Sanskrit authors and writers. Many Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil poets enjoyed the patronage of the emperor.

Options 1 and 3 are correct: Sri Krishnadevaraya **wrote the Amukta Malyada in Telugu,** also known by the name **Vishnuchitteeyam,** in which he beautifully describes the pangs of separation suffered by Andal (one of the twelve bhakti era alwars) for her lover Lord Vishnu.

Jambavati Kalyanam, Madalasa Charita, Satyavadu Parinnya and **Rasamanjari** are his Sanskrit works.

Option 2 is incorrect: Mitakshara is a commentary on the law book of Yajnavalkya by **Viganeshawara.**

Source: https://indiafacts.org/krishnadeva-raya-golden-age-telugu-literature/
https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Krishnadevaraya

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Q.45) With reference to the India's bilateral military exercise with various countries, consider the following pairs:

Military exercises	**Partner countries of India**
1. Yudh Abhyas	The United States of America
2. Harimau Shakti	France
3. Dharma Guardian	Nepal
4. Surya Kiran	Indonesia

How many pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) only one pair
b) only two pairs
c) only three pairs
d) All the four pairs

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Pair 1 is correct: Yudh Abhyas is a bilateral military exercise between India and USA. Recently **China expressed its concern** over this India-U.S. joint military exercise held in Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a borderline between India and China.
Pair 2 is incorrect: Harimau Shakti is India-Malaysia joint military exercise. It is an annual training event between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army being held **since 2012** and in 2022 it was held i**n Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia.**
Pair 3 is incorrect: Dharma Guardian is an India and Japan joint military exercise. In 2022 it was held in Belagavi, Karnataka. The training programmes of this exercise included counterterrorism, forestry and urban reconnaissance security operations.
Pair 4 is incorrect: Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal. It is conducted annually between India and Nepal to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrains.
Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-us-exercise-near-lac-irks-china/article66204243.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-malaysia-joint-military-exercise-harimau-shakti-2022-begins-in-kluang/article66198840.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/dharma-guardian-2022-scheduled-in-belagavi/article37900714.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nepal-india-to-hold-joint-military-training-exercise/article66266571.ece
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1876038
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1879495
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883751
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1804800

Q.46) With reference to the Bengal Rulers during 18th century, consider the following statements:
1. Murshid Quli Khan was the last governor of Bengal appointed by the Mughal emperor.
2. Alivardi khan provided the right to mint coins to the East India Company.
3. Shujauddin lost the battle of Plassey in the hands of East India Company.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The rise of Bengal as an independent autonomous state in the first half of eighteenth century was the establishment of practically independent and hereditary authority by the governor and subordination of all offices within the region to the governor showed the emergence of an independent focus of authority in Bengal.
Statement 1 is correct. Murshid Quli Khan was the last governor of Bengal appointed by the Mughal emperor. He, however, never did sever his formal connections with the Mughals and continued to send the annual Bengal revenue to Delhi regularly. But within his own domain **he acted as an autonomous ruler and in a true dynastic fashion named his daughter's son Sarfraz khan as his successor.**
Statement 2 is incorrect. Alivardi Khan was the Bengal nawab during the early eighteenth century when the conflict between the Company and the nawabs of Bengal was intensified. He accused the Company of depriving the Bengal government of huge amounts by refusing to pay taxes and trying to humiliate the nawab and his officials. He **refused to grant t**he Company concessions, demanded large tributes for the Company's right to trade, **denied it any right to mint coins,** and stopped it from extending its fortifications.
Statement 3 is incorrect. Siraj-ud-daula (not Shujauddin) was a nawab of Bengal who lost the battle of Plassey in hands of East India Company in 1757.
Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/hess202.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22064/1/Unit-22.pdf
https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Shujauddin_Muhammad_Khan

Q.47) With reference to the Socio-Political system of Sikhs, consider the following statements:
1. The Sikhs organized themselves into numerous small and highly mobile groups known as 'Jathas'.
2. The larger regional confederacies of Sikhs under the leadership of various local chiefs were known as 'Misls'.
3. The Rakhi system in Sikhs is a form of ritual purification undertaken by water that is stirred with a double-edged sword.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The Sikh movement in the course of the 18th century changed from a religious to a political movement and was directed mainly against the Mughal imperial authority.
Statement 1 is correct. Guru Gobind Singh's death in the early 18th century was followed by a peasant revolt by the Guru's follower, Banda Bahadur. This was a very tough time for the Mughal authority to retain its hold over the province. After Banda's execution in 1715, the **Sikhs organized themselves into numerous small and highly mobile bands, called Jathas** and posed a serious challenge to the Mughal imperial authority.

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Statement 2 is correct. In the second half of the 18th century the numerous small Sikh groups had regrouped themselves into **12 larger regional confederacies or Misls** under the leadership of various local chiefs. These Misls were based originally on the **principle of equality,** wherein each member had an equal say in deciding the affairs of the respective Misls and electing the Chief and other officers of the organization.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Sikh leaders introduced a system called '**Rakhi'** to offer protection to cultivators on the **payment of a tax of 20 percent** of the produce. The protection to cultivators was provided against all outsiders including the Mughal officers, after levying only 1/5th of the produce in return for that protection.

A system of ritual purification of the followers of **Guru Nanak to the ninth Guru Tegh Bahadu**r by giving them **Charan-Amrit (**water touched by the Guru's toe) to drink, whereas Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and the last Guru, changed this system of purification to **Kande-da-Pahul** (water stirred with double edged sword).

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/78021/1/Unit-9.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20296/1/Unit-5.pdf
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/gess110.pdf
https://issuu.com/sikhismhistory/docs
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22025/1/Unit-12.pdf

Q.48) With reference to Tipu Sultan, consider the following statements:
1. He is known for introducing the first of its kind iron tubed rockets in India.
2. He formed a revolutionary republican organization 'Jacobin Club' of Mysore.
3. He introduced the Risala system in the military of Mysore.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the second half of the eighteenth century, the first Muslim rulers of Mysore—Haidar 'Ali (1720-82) and his son Tipu Sultan (1750-99)—were amongst the first South Asian rulers to unleash a process of administrative, socio-economic and military proto modernisation.

Statement 1 is correct. Following the invention of gunpowder, the Chinese and Europeans had tested rockets using bamboo tubes. As they lacked the range and stability required for long-range weapons, they were soon replaced by cannons. **However, in late 1700s Tipu experimented by replacing bamboo tubes with iron tubes.** Mysore rockets, developed and deployed by Tipu Sultan's army during the Anglo-Mysore wars, was one of the first weaponised metal rockets. The British, who suffered heavy losses because of these rockets, were quick to learn and adopt them into their arsenal.

Statement 2 is correct. The Jacobin Club of Mysore was a radical political club in Mysore and **is said to be one of the first revolutionary republican organizations of India.** It was founded in 1794 by Tipu Sultan, with the support of French revolutionary officers. He planted a Liberty Tree and declared himself "Citizen Tipu".

Statement 3 is incorrect. Haider Ali introduced the **'Risala' system in the military**. Every Risala would consist of a fixed number of troops, horsemen and ammunition. An arrangement similar to the present

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concept of battalion. Military commanders to these troops will be appointed by Haider Ali himself. The Risala system was **inspired by the European way of organizing the army.**
Source: https://www.deccanherald.com/content/639701/tipus-legacy-politics-misreading.html
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/tipus-contribution-to-freedom-struggle-remembered/article7868460.ece
https://politicsforindia.com/tipu-sultan-anglo-mysore-wars/

Q.49) With reference to the foreign military expeditions of the Imperial cholas, consider the following statements:
1. Rajaraja I brought parts of Sri Lanka under the direct control of Cholas.
2. The Cholas under Rajendra I annexed the regions of Southeast Asia.
3. They could never conquer Maldives.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The period of **later Cholas or Imperial Cholas** began with **Vijayalaya (850–871 CE)** conquering the Kaveri delta from Mutharaiyar**s.** He built the **city of Thanjavur and established the Chola kingdom in 850 A.D.**
Statement 1 is correct: The military victory of **Raja Raja I over Sri Lanka** led to its northern and eastern portions coming under the **direct control of the Chola authority a**nd they called it **Mummudi-Cholamandalam.** The Chola official appointed in Sri Lanka built **the Rajarajesvara temple in Mahatitta in Sri Lanka.**
Statement 2 is correct: Rajendra Cholan launched a successful naval operation against Sumatran kingdom of Sri Vijaya and Kedah (known as Kadaram in Tamil) is a state of **Malaysia**, located in the northwestern part of Malaysian Peninsula. Because of this expedition he is known as **Kadaram Kondan (conqueror of Kedah).**
Statement 3 is incorrect: Raja Raja I engaged in naval expeditions and **emerged victorious in the West Coast too**. **He conquered Maldives**, lying off the western coast of India, in the Indian Ocean
Source: Class XI: TN SCERT - Later Cholas and Pandyas.

Q.50) Which of the following countries share land borders with Russia?
1. Sweden
2. Kazakhstan
3. Turkey
4. Uzbekistan
5. North Korea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 2, 3 and 5 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 4 and 5 only
d) 2 and 5 only

Ans) d

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Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: Sweden has no land border with Russia. Sweden shares its major border line with the Baltic Sea and **Finland (which shares borders with Russia) to its eas**t. To its **west lies the country Norway** (which shares land borders with Russia).

Option 2 is correct: Kazakhstan shares land borders with Russia. Kazakhstan lies to the south of Russia. Other countries lying south of Russia are China, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

Option 3 is incorrect: Turkey does not share a border with Russia. Between Russia and Turkey lies the country Georgia and Black Sea.

Option 4 is incorrect: Uzbekistan does not share land borders with Russia. To the north of Uzbekistan lies Kazakshatan. **Aral Sea** is located in between **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.**

Option 5 is correct: North Korea shares a land border with Russia. The terrestrial boundary between Russia and North Korea runs along the **thalweg of the Tumen River** and its estuary.

Source: Oxford Student Atlas for India - Political map of Europe and Asia.

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